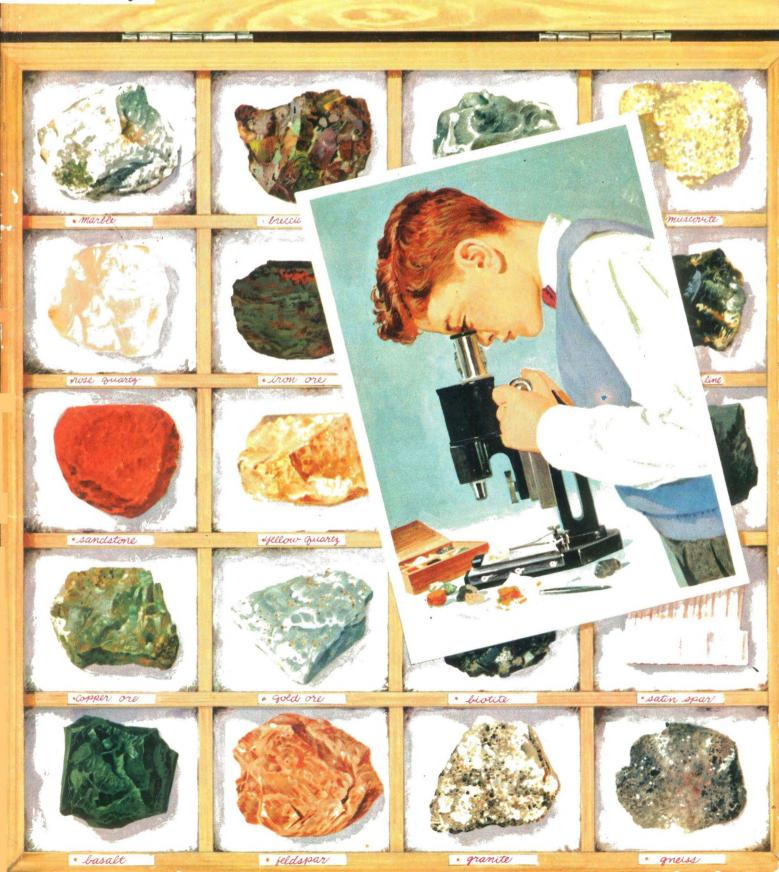
HOW AND WHY Wonder Book of

ROCKS AND MINERALS





THE HOW AND WHY WONDER BOOK OF

ROCKS AND MINERALS

Written by NELSON W. HYLER
I'lustrated by KENYON SHANNON



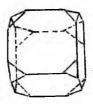
Edited under the supervision of Dr. Paul E. Blackwood Washington, D.C.

Text and illustrations approved by Oakes A. White Brooklyn Children's Museum Brooklyn, New York

TRANSWORLD PUBLISHERS · LONDON











INTRODUCTION

In an age of rockets and missiles, the study of rocks and minerals is no less important—and in this colourful *How and Why Wonder Book*, we see why it is so important. We learn that our modern age of rockets would not even be possible without minerals from the earth's crust. We learn the answers to dozens of important questions about the earth's surface and the changes that take place in it.

Anyone who has ever picked up a rounded pebble, a curiously shaped rock or a sparkling gem and handled it with wonder knows the urge to collect. The chances are that almost everyone who has walked in a field, along a stream or in a park has pocketed a sample of rock or mineral to examine and enjoy later. What is it? How was it made? Is it valuable? This *How and Why Wonder Book* about rocks and minerals is useful because it helps to answer these and other questions. In addition, it tells how to start and how to organize a rock collection. It is a helpful guide for parents and children who want to study rocks together.

Scientists who study the earth's surface are called geologists, and this book will help children explore the big questions which geologists are studying. It surely should take its place with the other *How and Why Wonder Books* on the library shelves of all science-minded young readers.

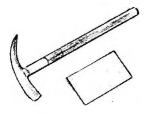
Paul E. Blackwood

Dr. Blackwood is a professional employee in the U.S. Office of Education. This book was edited by him in his private capacity and no official support or endorsement by the Office of Education is intended or should be inferred.

This book has been specially re-edited for publication in Great Britain.

Transworld Edition published 1971 Transworld Edition reprinted 1974 Transworld Edition reprinted 1976

© 1960, by Wonder Books, Inc. Special material © 1960, by Wonder Books, Inc. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. Published pursuant to agreement with owner of the trademark, Wonder Books, Inc., New York, U.S.A. Published by Transworld Publishers Ltd., Century House, 61/63 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London, W5 5SA. Printed by Printell & Sons Ltd., Paulton (Avon) and London



CONTENTS



	Page	•	Page
THE WORLD OF ROCKS		ROCK-FORMING MINERALS	
AND MINERALS		What are some of the rock-forming	
What is our earth made of?	4	minerals?	32
LEARNING ABOUT OUR WORLD		IDENTIFICATION OF ROCKS	
Why do we study about rocks and		AND MINERALS	
minerals?	5	How do we begin to identify rocks	
ROCKS		and minerals?	34
What is a rock?	6	How can you tell how hard a rock or	٠,
Are rocks found everywhere?	7	mineral is?	35
MINERALS		THE SCALE OF HARDNESS	55
What is a mineral?	8	MINERALS	1
Where can you find minerals?	9	What are the hardness minerals?	36
VOLCANOES			30
What is an active volcano?	10	SIMPLE TESTS	
IGNEOUS ROCKS—ONE OF THE		How can you tell what kind of rock	
THREE BIG GROUPS OF ROCKS		it is?	39
What is an igneous rock?	12	How can you test a rock or mineral for	• •
Where do igneous rocks come from?	13	weight?	39
Are there many kinds of igneous		FOSSILS	
rocks?	14	What is a fossil?	40
ROCK QUARRIES		Why do we study fossils?	41
What is a quarry?	16	Where are fossils found?	42
EROSION		RARE STONES	
Does the earth wear out?	17	What makes a mineral a gem stone?	43
SEDIMENTARY ROCKS		PUMICE	
Are there rocks under the water?	18	What is pumice?	44
How are rocks made?	20	COAL	
Where are sedimentary rocks found?	21	What is coal?	44
Are there many kinds of sedimentary			77
rocks?	22	ASBESTOS	4.5
METAMORPHIC ROCKS		What is asbestos?	45
Why do rocks have different shapes and		ICE	
colours?	24	What is ice?	45
Where do metamorphic rocks come		START A ROCK AND MINERAL	
from?	25	COLLECTION	
Are there many kinds of metamorphic		How do you begin a rock and mineral	
rocks?	26	collection?	46
CRYSTALS		What will you need to collect rocks	
What is a crystal?	28	and minerals?	47
How can you make a crystal?	29	How can you keep your rocks and	
MINERAL FOODS	-	minerals?	47
Where does the salt we eat come from?	30	IDENTIFICATION CHART OF	
Can we eat minerals?	31	MAJOR SPECIMENS	48

THE WORLD OF ROCKS AND MINERALS



What is our earth made of?

the earth—
the hills, the mountains, the ground

itself—is made of minerals and rocks which contain minerals.

There are many different kinds, and it would take a long time just to write down all their names. Yet, most of the rocks and minerals on earth are very common.

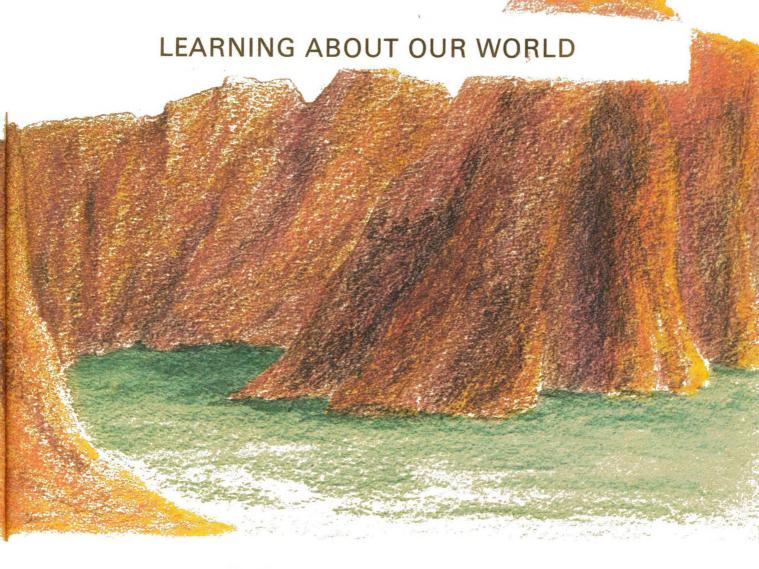
Sand is a common mineral. It is common because it is found everywhere.

Water is another common mineral.

We find it in the streams and in the rivers. It fills the lakes and the seas. Most of the earth is covered with water. The great oceans of the world, together with the streams, rivers and lakes, cover about three-fourths of the surface of the world.

Mixed up in these waters are other minerals. We cannot see them by looking into the water, but they are there just the same.

Water is very important because we cannot live without it. It helps to make up an important part of our earth.



Why do we study about rocks and minerals?

Wa wonderful world. It is full of interesting things

and it is fun to learn about things.

Almost all of our world—even the inside of the world—is made of rocks and minerals. We study them to learn about our world.

Every day we use something made of rocks or minerals. But often they have been changed. They do not look the same.

Glass does not look like sand. Yet glass is made from sand. The ink that

printed the letters on this page was made from minerals. We study about rocks and minerals to learn about the things we use every day.

Many people earn their living by working with rocks and minerals, making them into many different things we use. Some people have fun just looking for and finding rocks. It is important to learn about rocks and minerals so we can learn to live better.

We study about rocks and minerals to learn about our world, to learn about the things we use, and to learn to earn a livelihood.

ROCKS

What is a rock?

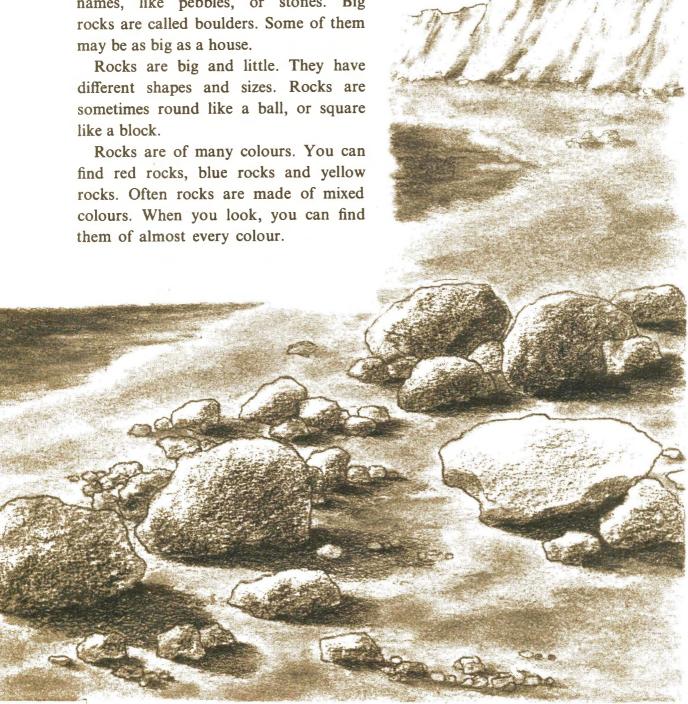
OCKS are made of minerals. A few are

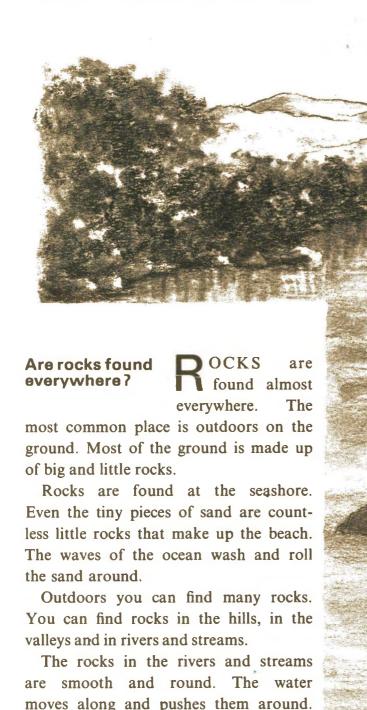
made of just one mineral, but most of them are made of many minerals. There are many kinds of rocks.

Very small rocks are called sand. Very small sand is like sugar or salt. The individual grains are so small that they are hard to see.

Rocks bigger than sand have other names, like pebbles, or stones. Big may be as big as a house.

THE SEASHORE, AT LOW TIDE, SHOWING SAND, **ROCKS OF DIFFERENT SIZES, AND ROCK CLIFFS** IN THE BACKGROUND

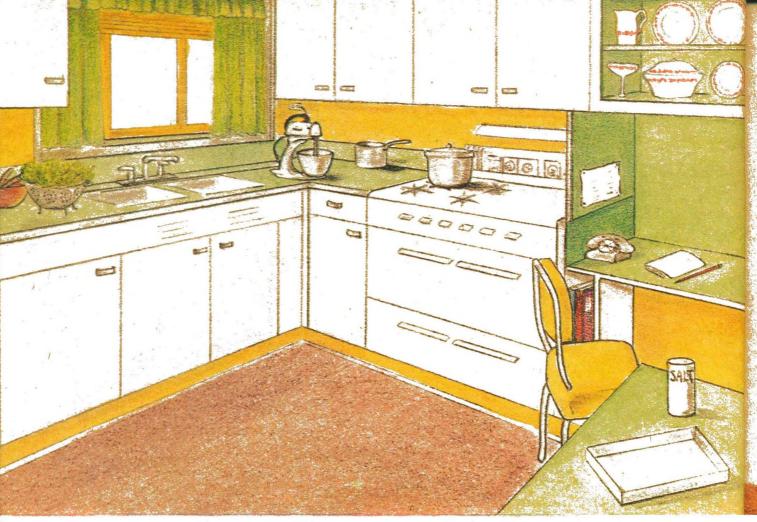




The rocks then become smooth and round by rubbing and bumping against

In this way sharp rocks are broken into smaller rocks and in time are made smooth and round. Rocks are being changed all the time by moving water.

each other.



MINERALS ARE ALL AROUND US—AT HOME, IN SCHOOL AND OUTDOORS. THE KITCHEN IN YOUR HOME USUALLY HAS MANY THINGS MADE OF MINERALS.

MINERALS

What is a mineral?

A MINERAL is a chemical element or a

combination of chemical elements. Minerals are all around us and they are easily found almost everywhere. In fact, it may be said that anything that is not an animal or a vegetable is a mineral.

You should be able to look around as you read this book and see some of these minerals. Can you see a window? Its components are minerals. Can you see a dish? Can you see any kitchen pots and pans? These and other household arti-

cles are made out of minerals, too.

A good part of your wooden pencil is made of minerals. The lead consists of graphite which is a mineral in its natural form. The metal part that holds the eraser is made up of minerals, too, as is the paint on the pencil.

Almost all minerals are solids, but water is a liquid mineral. It is made up of two chemical elements—oxygen and hydrogen.

Some other minerals are clay, chalk and oil. Metals, such as iron, silver and gold are minerals, too. Scientists have found about 2,000 different specimens.

Where can you find minerals?

SOME minerals are found on top of the

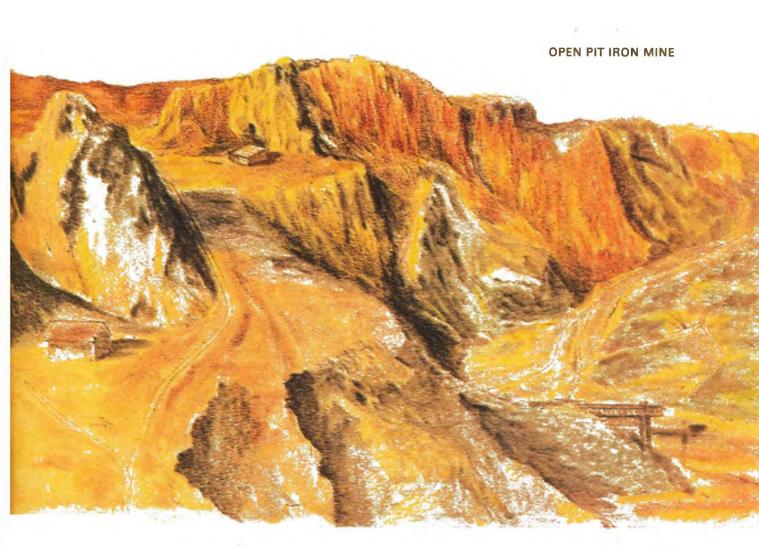
ground. Others are dug up from under the ground.

Many people go around looking for minerals. Prospectors are men who look for valuable minerals. In many places they have found large deposits. Then a mine may be started, if enough is found in one place. The mineral is then taken out of the mine and sold.

A mine where iron is found is called an iron mine and the mineral taken out is named iron ore. The word "ore" usually refers to any natural material which contains a valuable metal. A gold mine has gold ore and a lead mine has lead ore.

In many cases, more than one kind of ore is found together. Often, for example, silver and lead ores are close together.

All minerals do not come from mines. Some of our important minerals come from the sea. Salt is an important mineral. You use salt in your food. Salt is found both in the sea and on the land.



VOLCANOES







THE START OF A LITTLE VOLCANO

What is an active volcano? AN ACTIVE volcano is one that is said to

be "erupting." It shoots out steam, ash, and both solid and molten rocks. Such a volcano is working and it is active.

Millions of years ago there were many active volcanoes. They were working in many places. Some were working here in Britain.

A volcano begins deep down in the earth, where it is very hot. It is so hot that the rock becomes molten. This molten rock is called magma.

Deep in the earth there is much hot

magma, which is sometimes pushed upward by pressure from the heavy rocks all around it. Finally the hot magma reaches the top of the ground. Here it breaks a little crack or hole in the earth. Steam, ashes and hot rocks come out.

Loud noises come from it as the rocks are blown out. The rocks pile up around the hole and the pile begins to form a cone about the crack in the earth. The cone is made up of rock, ashes and material thrown out of the volcano.

This is the beginning of a little volcano. Day after day it works and grows.



The rocks and ashes grow into a big hill. More ashes and hot rocks come out of the hole at the top of it. Another name for this hill is a volcano.

Sometimes, the volcano pours out lava. Lava is very hot and is made of hot melted rock, which is also called molten rock.

The old volcano has worked for many years. It has built a large mountain and made some smaller hills close by. The volcano has turned the flat land into hills and mountains.

Other volcanoes have been working, too, helping to build up the land.

Volcanoes that worked many millions of years ago are no longer active. Only the hills and mountains they built long ago remain to tell us that they once existed.

When a volcano has not erupted for a long time, it is said to be dormant. This means that the volcano is sleeping. If it is inactive for a very long time, it may be considered dead. Then the volcano is said to be extinct.

IGNEOUS ROCKS—ONE OF

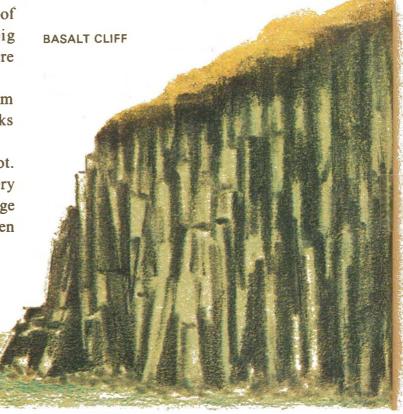
What is an igneous rock?

GNEOUS is the name of one of the three big

groups of rocks. Igneous rocks were made in a special way.

The word igneous means made from fire or heat. Therefore, all igneous rocks have been formed by heat.

Deep down in the earth it is very hot. The rocks and minerals there are very hot. The heat has helped to change these rocks and minerals into molten rock, called magma.





When the magma comes up to the surface of the earth, it cools off and becomes hard. The cold magma, hardened into rock, is called igneous rock. There are many different kinds of igneous rocks, but all of them have come from the magma found deep in the earth.

Sometimes the magma does not get all the way up to the earth's surface. It cools underneath the ground, turning into rock before it gets to the surface. Granite is one kind of igneous rock.

Huge rocks are formed under the ground in this manner. Sometimes the rocks made in this way are several miles long and almost as wide and deep.

GRANITE

THE THREE BIG GROUPS OF ROCKS

Where do igneous rocks come from?

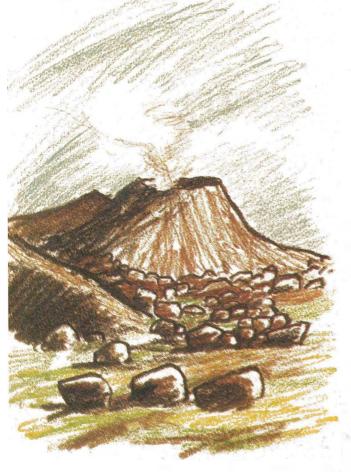
A GOOD place to find igneous rocks is near old volcanoes.

These rocks were made when the volcanoes were still active. Today you can still find the rocks they made.

Many different kinds of rocks are found near the old volcanoes. Lava is one. It is a common igneous rock.

Lava in the form of molten rock pours out of a crack in the side of a volcano. It runs steaming down the side of the volcano and over everything in its path.

RIGHT: AN ERUPTING VOLCANO SHOWING MOLTEN ROCK AND LAVA FLOWING DOWN ITS SIDE. BELOW: IGNEOUS DUMP ROCK FROM VOLCANOES.





In time, the molten lava cools and hardens, turning into igneous rock. The name, lava, can mean the molten rock or even the cold hard rock.

Millions of years ago, there were volcanoes to be found in some parts of the British Isles. They were active for many years, throwing out ashes, cinders, rocks and dust. Year after year they worked, building the land higher and higher.

The higher central area of the Lake District is a typical example of landscape built up in this way. Today there are only dissected remnants of rocks which once included volcanoes Are there many kinds of igneous rocks?

GRANITE is one of our most common igneous rocks, made

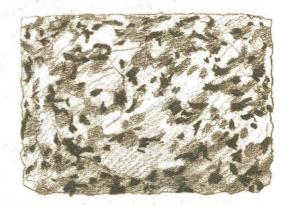
deep under the ground.

Granite is made up of quartz, feldspar, muscovite and several types of mica. These are all minerals. Quartz and feldspar are light-coloured. They make granite a light-coloured rock. The little bits of biolite mica in granite make the dark spots.

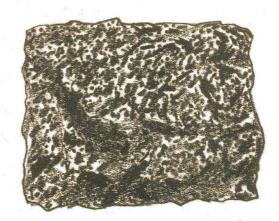
Granite may be coloured red, pink, yellow or brown. Often it is a mixture of colours in between.

DIORITE is an igneous rock. It is made like granite, but is much darker in colour. It is darker than granite because it has no white quartz in it.

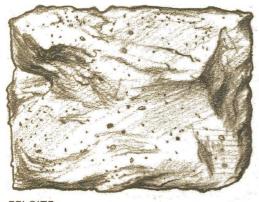
Diorite is made up of feldspar and hornblende. Together they give the rock a speckled appearance.



GRANITE



DIORITE



FELSITE

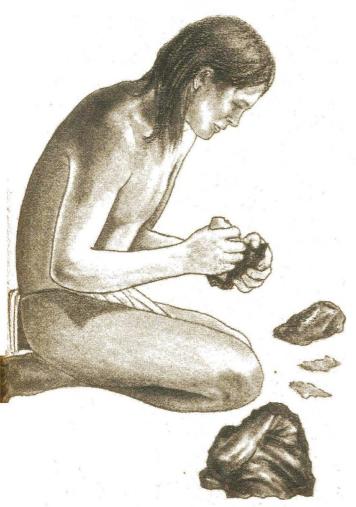
FELSITE rocks are made from fast-cooling lava. The lava cools too fast to turn into granite. The lava cools too slowly to make obsidian, another kind of igneous rock. It cools just right and turns into felsite.

Felsite rocks are usually made from light-coloured lavas. These rocks are often coloured light grey, green, yellow or even red.

BASALT is a rock that comes from volcanoes. Sometimes the lava from a volcano is a very dark colour. As this dark lava slowly cools, it turns into a black rock called basalt.

Basalt is a very useful igneous rock. It is crushed and sold to make many useful things. Basalt is used in pavements, buildings and roads, just like granite.

This kind of rock was formed in giant sheets when the ancient volcanoes poured out huge flows of lava that cooled faster than the granite-forming magmas.



INDIANS MADE THE TIPS OF THEIR SPEARS AND ARROWS OUT OF OBSIDIAN.



OBSIDIAN is another igneous rock made by volcanoes. When lava flows out of the volcano, it often cools very fast and forms a rock called obsidian. This rock is really natural glass. In thin pieces it is found in shades of green and brown.

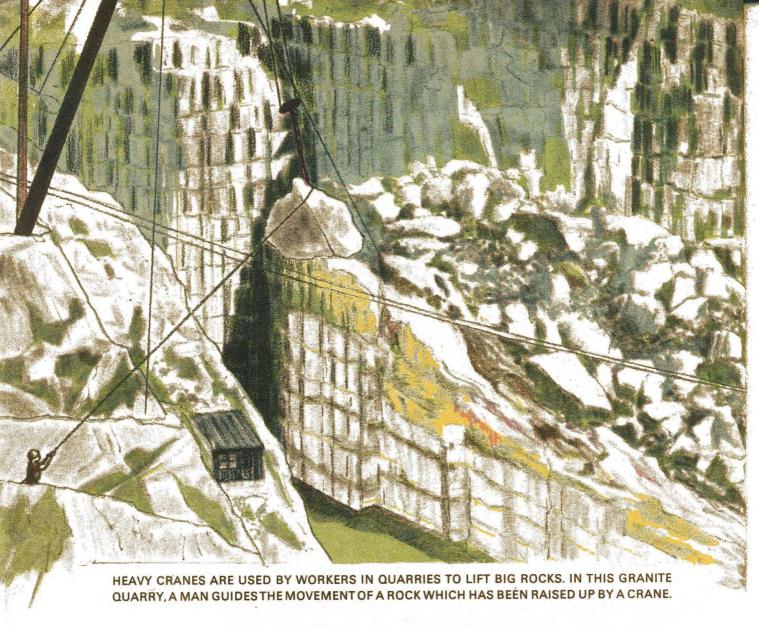
Indians found obsidian very useful. They made the tips of their arrows and spears out of it. The way in which this rock breaks apart makes it easy to shape arrow and spear points.

Can you tell how the igneous rocks you have just read about were made?

Granite and diorite were formed when the magma did not reach the surface of the earth. This magma cooled very slowly deep under the earth's surface.

Basalt was made when the magma reached the surface. This magma came out of the earth and we call it lava. The lava cooled into basalt.

The fastest cooling lava of all turned into glass. This natural glass we call obsidian.



ROCK QUARRIES

What is a quarry?

A QUARRY is a large open hole in the ground

or the side of a hill. It is a place where rocks and stones are dug out.

There are many kinds of rock quarries. One kind will have granite rocks. Another will have sandstone and there are some quarries of marble, too.

Big machines help the workers take the rock out of a granite quarry. The big rocks are used to build many things, but most of the time the builders need more small rocks than big rocks.

Rock-crushing machines take the big rocks and break them into smaller pieces. These small pieces of broken rock are called crushed rock or gravel, which is used to build new roads.

Rock is heavy and expensive to move a long way. Therefore, we find rock quarries close to big cities or new roads where lots of crushed rock is used for construction purposes.

EROSION

Does the earth wear out?

V OLCANOES are land builders. They help to make the land

higher. But the land does not stay built up. It keeps wearing away. Day after day and year after year, the wind and the water help to wear away the land.

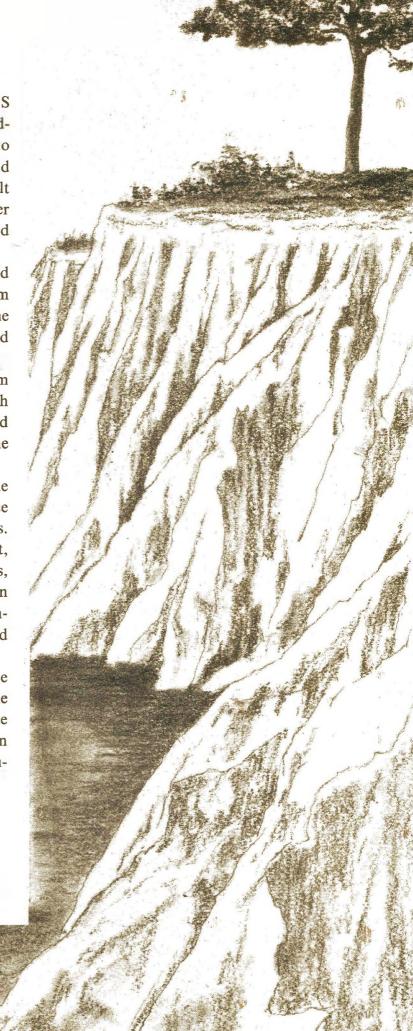
The wind may blow dirt, sand and soil into a nearby stream. The stream carries the dirt, sand and soil to the sea. Day after day the earth is washed away by running water.

You may have seen a muddy stream or river. It was carrying the earth toward the sea. This is the way the wind and the water are taking away the earth.

Not all streams lead to the sea. Some end in lakes or other streams. These streams carry material into the lakes. In time the lake fills up with mud, dirt, sand and the like. When this happens, the lake turns into a shallow marsh. In time the marsh may dry up. This is another place from which the wind and water may take away the land.

When the land is being moved by the wind or water, we say it has eroded. The process of erosion is going on all of the time. It may be helpful, but more often it is harmful in destroying much valuable land.

ON SEACOASTS, OCEAN WAVES ERODE THE LAND. THE WAVES CARRY LOOSE BITS OF ROCK, PLUS THE FORCE OF THE WAVES AGAINST THE LAND, WEAR AWAY THE EARTH.



SEDIMENTARY ROCKS

BODIES OF WATER HOLD MUD, SAND AND ROCKS, AS WELL AS LIVING THINGS, IN-CLUDING PLANTS AND SEA ANIMALS. MANY OBJECTS SINK IN THE WATER-SOME TO THE VERY BOTTOM, OTHERS ONLY PARTWAY. IN TIME, THERE ARE LAYERS OF ROCK, SAND AND MUD IN THE WATER.

Are there rocks

under the water? handful dirt in a glass of

water. At first the water will be cloudy. But if the water is left alone, the dirt will settle to the bottom of the glass. In time the water will be clear again.

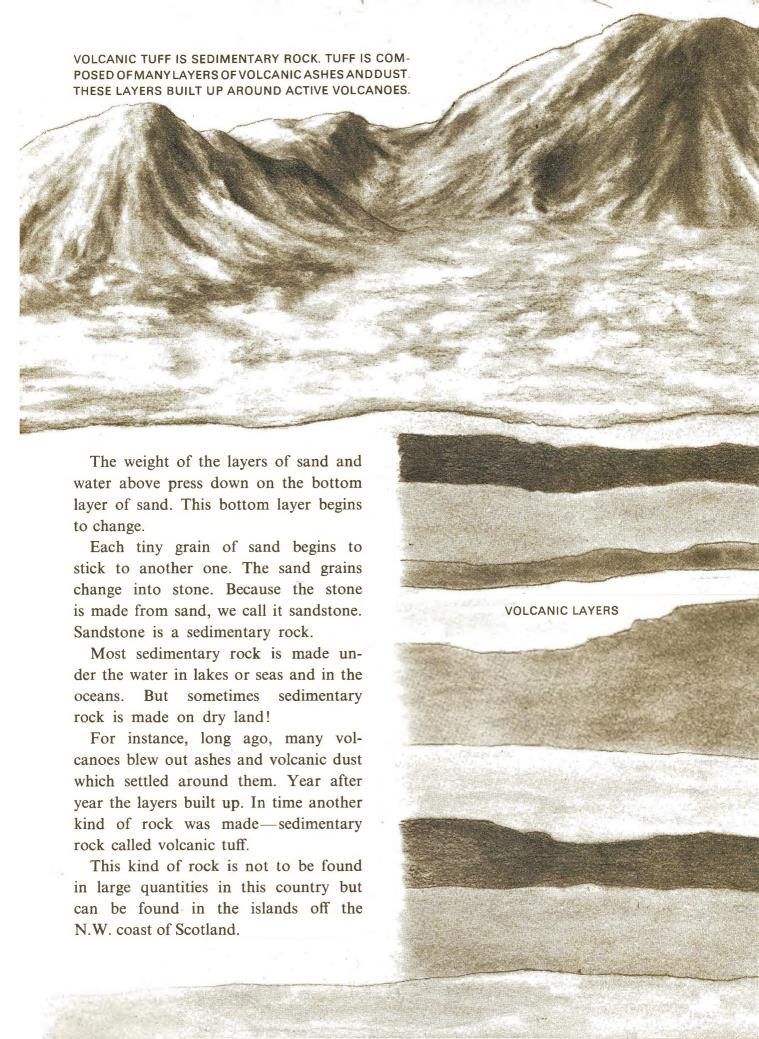
The dirt that has settled to the bottom of the glass is called sediment. From this word comes the name sedimentary, the name for the second big group of rocks.

This kind of rock was formed by sediment from rivers and streams. Every day the streams and rivers bring more and more mud, sand and rock to the seas. These settle to the bottom and are called sediment.

The big rocks settle first. They sink first because they are bigger and heavier. Next the sand and then the mud sinks to the bottom of the sea. In this way different layers are built up. The layers build up on the sea bottom year after year until they are very thick.



MUD



How are rocks made?

OT ALL sedi m e n t a r y rocks were made from dirt and sand

that came down the river. Some were made from the shells of sea animals and plants.

Millions of animals live in the sea. Some of them build a hard shell which is made of lime, and this protects the animal living inside. Cockles, mussels, whelks, and snails live in shells.

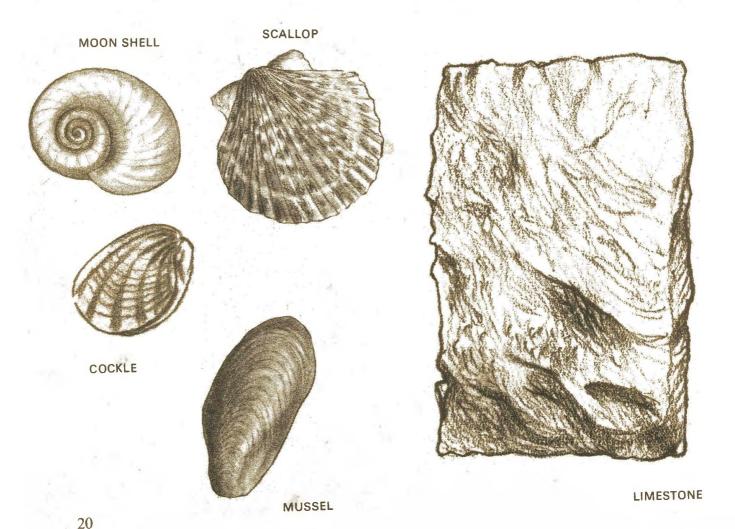
Some plants have shells, too. A diatom is a tiny plant that lives in a shell. Millions and millions of tiny shelled diatoms live in the sea.

When a plant or animal dies, its shell

sinks to the bottom of the sea. After many years, millions of dead shells pile up on the bottom of the sea. Again, the top layer pushes down on the bottom layers. The shells in the bottom layer are pushed close together.

The weight of the shells on top changes the bottom layer of shells. The shell layer at the bottom turns into stone. The name of this stone is limestone, which is another kind of sedimentary rock.

Look again at the word limestone. Do you see that the first part of the word says lime? This tells us what the rock is made of. The last part of the word tells us the lime has turned into stone.



Where are sedimentary rocks found?

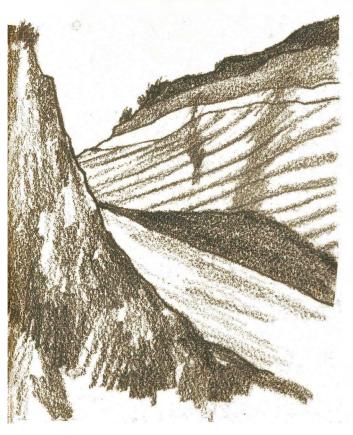
SEDIMEN-TARY rocks were formed under the seas and

oceans. The sedimentary rocks built up higher and higher in some places. This made the sea bottom rise higher and higher.

Millions of years went by. In some places the sea bottom rose slowly. If it rose high enough, it came out of the water.

The land that came out of the water was made of sediment. Below the top layers of sediment were sedimentary rocks. You can see these rocks today near the seashore.

SEDIMENTARY ROCK THAT CAME OUT OF THE WATER OFTEN ROSE TO GREAT HEIGHT. YOU CAN SEE HOW LAYERS OF SEDIMENT WEREBUILTUPASYOU DRIVEALONG HIGHWAYS WHICH CUT THROUGH HILLS MADE OF SEDIMENTARY ROCK.



NEAR THE SEASHORE, YOU CAN SEE SEDI-MENTARY ROCK. LAYERS OF SEDIMENT DE-POSITS IN THE WATER ROSE HIGHER AND HIGHER. AFTER MANY YEARS, SEDIMEN-TARY ROCK EMERGED FROM THE WATER.



Wherever you find land that was once under water, you are almost sure to find sedimentary rock.

Roads are often cut through hills. If the hill is made of sedimentary rock, it will show the layers. You can usually find sedimentary rocks in hills that are layered.

Sedimentary rocks are very common. Almost all of England and Wales and large areas of Southern Ireland are covered with sedimentary rocks. Scotland also has its share of sedimentary deposited rock but only in small quantities on the East coast.

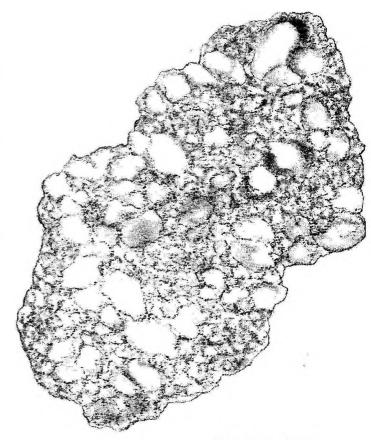
Are there many kinds of sedimentary rocks?

ONGLOM-ERATE is a sedimentary rock. It is made of a mix-

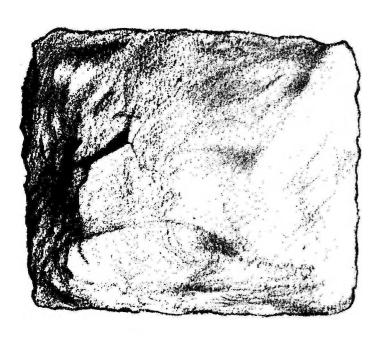
ture of smooth round stones and pebbles. The larger stones in a conglomerate rock are held together by another kind of stone, either limestone or sandstone.

Conglomerate rock is made in old streams and river beds. The large stones are washed down the stream. Then, in a quiet pool, the rocks sink to the bottom and pile up.

More rocks and sand continue to pile up in the old stream bed. In time the big and little rocks become changed into conglomerate rock.



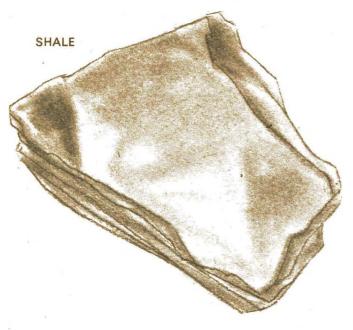
CONGLOMERATE

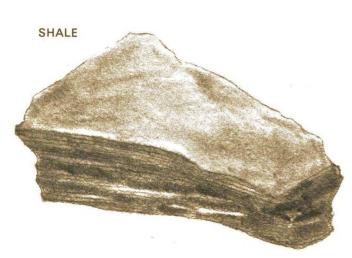


SANDSTONE

SANDSTONE is a very useful sedimentary rock. It is used in walls and buildings, because it is strong and easy to quarry. After it has been taken from the quarry, it is cut into blocks and used in the building of things.

There are many different colours of sandstone. Brown is common. In some places so much sandstone is coloured brown it is called brownstone. You can also find yellow-coloured, grey-coloured and red-coloured sandstones.

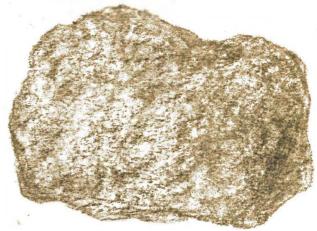




SHALE is made from fine silt and mud. Sometimes it is so soft, it is not like a stone at all.

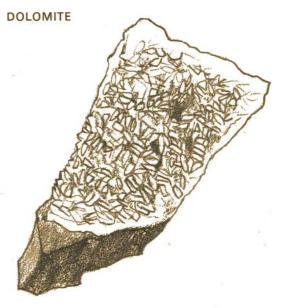
Most rocks do not have any odour, but wet shale does. It smells like damp earth.

You can find shales of many different colours. Red, brown and grey are common colours of shale. The colour, of course, depends upon the colour of the mud or fine silt from which the shale was made.



LIMESTONE is a sedimentary rock that forms only under water. It takes millions of years to make a lot of limestone. Some deposits of limestone are thousands of feet thick!

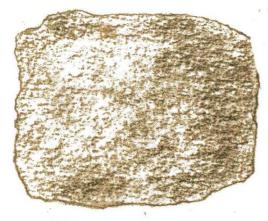
Pure limestone is clean and white. But often other things get mixed into the limestone that may change its colour. When a little bit of iron gets mixed into it, the white limestone changes to yellow or brown. Other materials can change the colour of limestone to green, grey, black and many other colours.



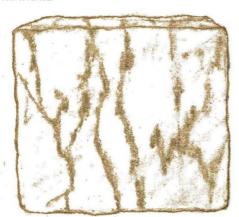
DOLOMITE is another kind of limestone made under the sea. It is usually white or light-coloured.

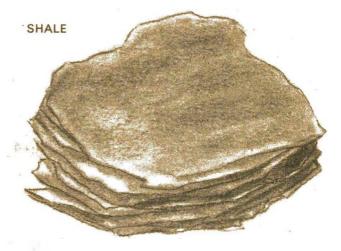
METAMORPHIC ROCKS

LIMESTONE



MARBLE







Why do rocks have different shapes and colours?

HE NAME metamorphic means "changed."

This name is used to tell about rocks that have been changed in some way. This is the third and last big group of rocks.

Metamorphic rocks began as one kind of rock and later were changed into another kind. All of them began once as igneous or sedimentary rocks. The new rocks do not look the same, for in becoming metamorphic rocks their structure and often their colour change.

Sedimentary rocks are formed deep under the seas. After they have been formed, they may become very hot. Heat helps to change sedimentary rocks.

The weight of the rocks and water on top of the sedimentary rocks is very great. The heavy weight or pressure also helps to change the sedimentary rocks. Heat and pressure together change the sedimentary rocks into metamorphic rocks.

When limestone is changed, it turns into marble. If shale is changed, it turns into slate. Both marble and slate are metamorphic rocks.

THE HEAT AND HEAVY WEIGHT, OR PRESSURE, ON SEDIMENTARY AND IGNEOUS ROCKS HELP TO CHANGE THEM INTO METAMORPHIC ROCKS. AS A VOLCANO PUSHES ITS WAY UP THROUGH THE EARTH, GREAT HEAT IS CREATED. AS THE VOLCANO PASSES THROUGH A SEDIMENTARY LAYER, THE HEAT CHANGES THE SEDIMENTARY ROCK INTO METAMORPHIC ROCK.

Where do metamorphic rocks come from?

S EDIMEN-TARY rocks are made deep under the seas and

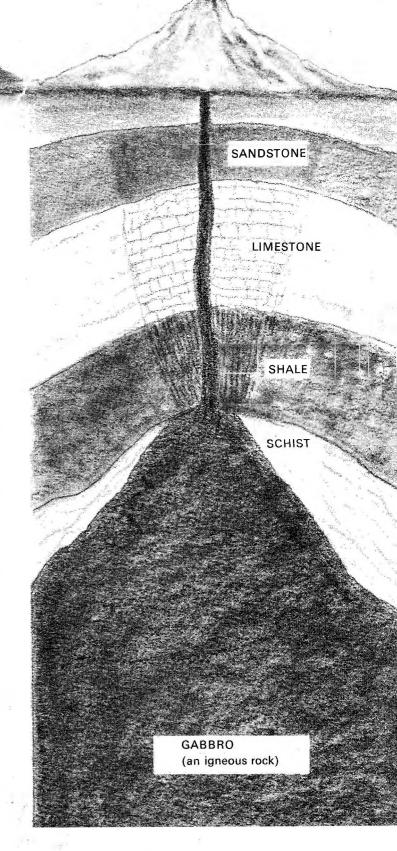
ocean bottoms. Sometimes a sea goes dry. The land moves up and the sedimentary rocks are exposed.

In time the wind and rain wear down the top layers of rock. Then another kind of rock is exposed. The rock exposed is metamorphic rock.

To find metamorphic rock, you must visit a place where the land has been wearing down for many years. There are large areas in the North of Scotland and parts of Northern Ireland where one can see this kind of rock. Small quantities are also present in Anglesey and Cornwall.

Sometimes metamorphic rocks can be found where old volcanoes once stood. The red hot lava from them often changed other rocks into metamorphic rocks.

This type of metamorphic rock could occur where the volcano pushed its way up through the earth, passing through a sediment layer on the way. Here the heat helped to change the sedimentary rock into metamorphic rock.



Are there many kinds of metamorphic rocks?

SLATE is a metamorphic rock made from the sedimen-

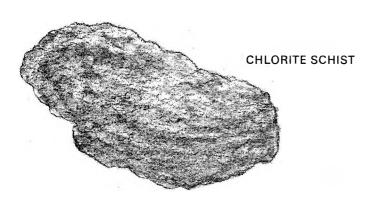
tary rock shale. When shale is changed by heat and pressure, it turns into slate.

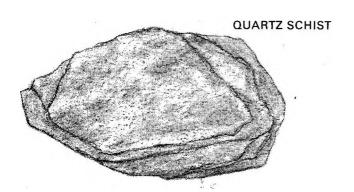
Although slate and shale have the same colours there are important distinctions between the two. Slate is harder and stronger than shale. The way they break also helps to tell them apart.

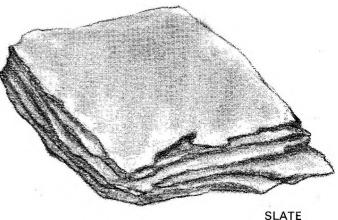
Slate breaks into smooth flat sheets of rock. You can split it into very thin pieces, which make fine steppingstones.

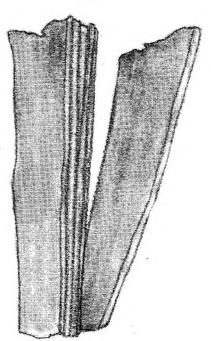
The finest blackboards are made of slate that has been split into thin sheets. One side is then polished very smooth before it is used for a blackboard.

Shale will not break into smooth flat sheets of rock. It breaks only into odd shapes. This stone has little use because of the way in which it breaks.





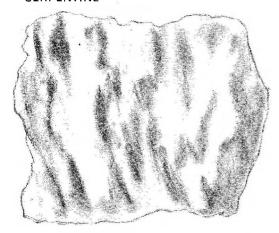




SCHIST is a metamorphic rock made from mudstone or shale. Rock must be changed many times in order to make schist.

As schist is made, some of the minerals in it change. These minerals then become mica and all are turned the same way. The little bits of mica make the schist shine and sparkle.

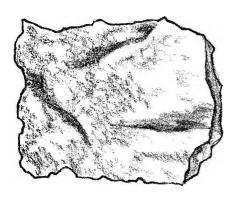
SERPENTINE



SERPENTINE is a metamorphic rock often coloured green. Most serpentine rocks are dark green and many are red in colour. Serpentines are largely used as ornamental stones. Their beauty and variety are due to the mottling and veining of the serpentine by talc, magnesite and iron oxide.

In the British Isles the largest masses of serpentine occur at the Lizard in Cornwall and in the Shetland Isles.

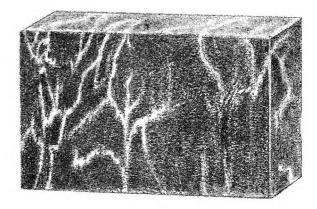
QUARTZITE



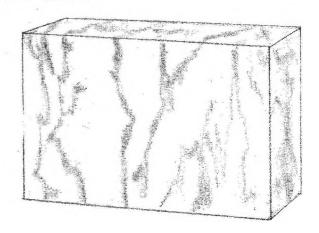
QUARTZITE is a very hard metamorphic rock made from hard sandstone.

Pressure and heat changed the sandstone into hard quartzite. Some quartzite is coloured like sandstone. These colours are yellow, brown, pink and red.

BLACK MARBLE



WHITE MARBLE



MARBLE is a metamorphic rock. It comes from limestone that has been changed by heat and pressure. Marble is made-over limestone.

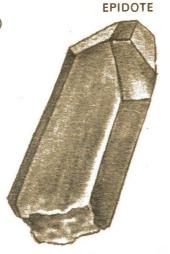
Marble is often many different colours. You can find white marble or black marble or just about any colour in between. Often the marble is striped or marked with several colours. Minerals, or impurities, in the marble change its colour.

This stone is used in some of the great public buildings in our country. Many beautiful monuments are made with this useful stone.

AMAZONITE (or Amazon stone)



Triclinic System



Monoclinic System

CRYSTALS

What is a crystal?

HERE are non-living substances which

grow into bodies of various shapes. They grow by adding on more layers of the same substance, keeping the same shape at all times. These bodies of various shapes are called crystals. Most solid substances, like minerals, are crystalline; that is, they are made up of crystals. So a crystal is really another form of rocks and minerals, except that the word "crystal" tells us that that particular rock or mineral is of a certain shape.

These different crystal shapes, which help us to tell the minerals apart, are grouped into six main kinds or systems: Cubic System, Tetragonal System, Hexagonal System, Orthorhombic System, Monoclinic System and Triclinic System. Examples of the six different shapes may be seen in the crystal forms shown on this page.

When minerals are first formed, they often turn into crystals. It takes a long time to make big crystals, but some little crystals can be made in two days.

SULPHUR



Orthorhombic System

CALCITE



Hexagonal System

RUTILE



Tetragonal System

HALITE (salt)



Cubic System



How can you make a crystal?

ERE is a way to make some crystals of your

own. Salt crystals are easy to make.

Stir three tablespoons full of salt into a cup of warm water. As you stir the water, the salt will disappear. In a few minutes you will not be able to see the salt crystals. They have disappeared into the water.

Next pour the salty water into a flat pan. Set the pan where it will be warm. Salt crystals will grow faster in a warm place. Now you must wait for the water to evaporate. This may take a few days. Little by little the water will disappear.

Every day look at the pan of salt water. Soon white crystals will begin to form around the edge of the pan. The white crystals are made of salt.

Sugar crystals can be made in the same way. Even bigger crystals than sugar or salt can be made by dissolving alum crystals. When they turn back into crystals again, you will be surprised at their size. You can buy alum at any chemist shop for a few pence.

MINERAL FOODS

Where does the salt we eat come from?

WCH OF the salt in England is obtained from mining rock-

salt. The beds of rock-salt are mined or quarried by the usual excavation methods, depending on the depths and thicknesses of the deposits and upon local conditions.

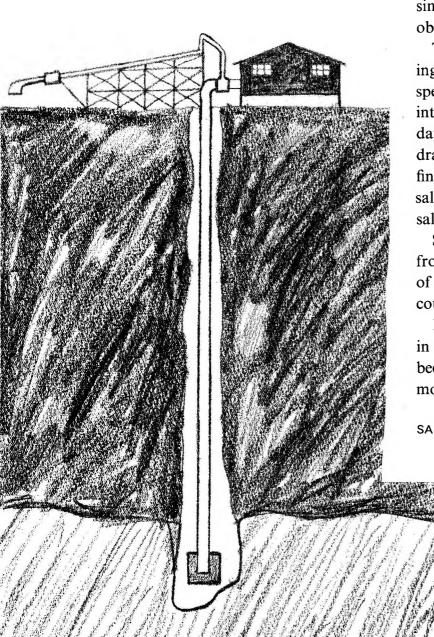
Another method of exploitation is by drilling wells into the salt strata, pumping water down them to dissolve the salt and treating the returning brine in a manner similar to the treatment of natural brines obtained from sea water.

The salt is obtained by slowly evaporating the water, leaving the salt crystals in special crystallizing pans. The salt is raked into rows and allowed to drain for several days. It is then collected into heaps, drained again, lifted from the pans and finally dried. The mineral name for rock-salt is halite, but it is usually just called salt.

Salt for industrial use is usually obtained from rock-salt deposits. Cheshire is one of the centres for salt mining in this country.

Many years ago salt was difficult to get in some countries. Workmen have even been paid wages with salt, instead of money.

SALT MINING



Can we eat minerals?

OU MAY be surprised to learn that every day you eat many

different minerals besides salt. These minerals are very helpful to you.

Water is a very common mineral. It is the most important mineral you use. Some of it is in the food you eat. Other water is in the milk you drink. Your body needs some water every day.

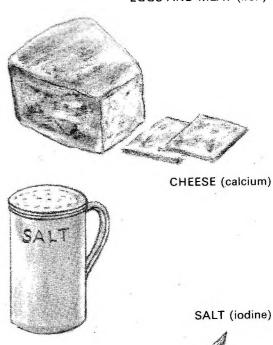
You only need to eat very tiny amounts of the other minerals which are found in foods. They cannot be seen because there are only tiny bits of them. But they are very important.

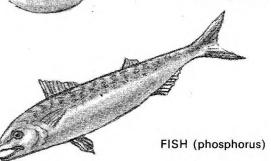
Iron is an important mineral used to make cars and other things. It is also a mineral you need to eat. It is found in eggs and liver. Calcium is a mineral found in cheese, and it helps to make strong bones. Iodine is a mineral needed to keep your body healthy. Iodine is often mixed with the salt you eat.

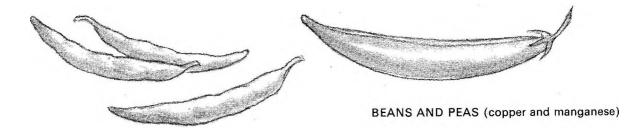
All of these minerals and many more are found in the food you eat. You need to eat many different kinds of food because each kind has different minerals. They help you to build a healthy body.



EGGS AND MEAT (iron)







ROCK-FORMING MINERALS

What are some of the rock-forming mad minerals?

made from one or more kinds of minerals. Gran-

ite is a rock made from three kinds of minerals—quartz, feldspar and mica.

Quartz, feldspar and mica are rockforming minerals. They are called that because they make rocks, like granite.

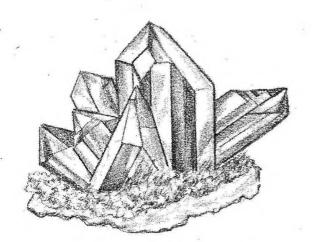
QUARTZ is one of the most common rock-forming minerals and is found in all the big groups of rocks—igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.

Some quartz is colourless, like ice.

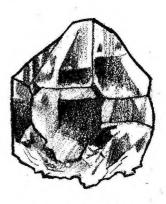
Other colours are white, pink, violet and grey. Sometimes the dark-coloured quartz is called smoky quartz. It looks like the colour of dark smoke.

You can find quartz very easily. The small sand grains in dirt are often quartz. Beach sand is usually full of quartz grains. It is found in most igneous rocks, often in the form of crystals.

In fact, the names of many minerals and rocks depend upon whether or not quartz is present in the sample. You should consider quartz to be one of the most important rock-forming minerals.



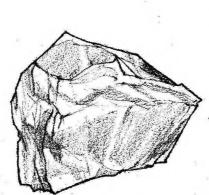
ROCK CRYSTAL IN QUARTZ



TYPICAL QUARTZ



SMOKY QUARTZ



AMETHYST QUARTZ



ROSE QUARTZ

FELDSPAR is a very common rockforming mineral, like quartz. But the name feldspar is really a family name. That is, it is a name used for six or seven different feldspar minerals.

All of these feldspar minerals are much alike, sometimes so much so that it is hard to tell them apart. It is easier to just call them feldspar. So feldspar is the family name given to all of them.

Feldspar minerals occur in almost all of the igneous rocks. Often the colour of the rock depends upon the colour of the feldspar mixed into it.



GRANITE WITH PINK FELDSPAR



GRANITE WITH WHITE FELDSPAR



MICROCLINE FELDSPAR

Feldspar may be coloured white, light pink or even green. The white and pink colours are the ones you will see most often.

Granite with pink feldspar will look pink. If the feldspar is white, the granite will look white. The quartz in the granite helps to change the colour, too.

As granite grows old and is exposed to the weather, it begins to fall apart. We say that it is beginning to decompose. Actually, it is the feldspar in the granite that is breaking apart. In time the wind and water help to change the feldspar into clay.

IDENTIFICATION OF ROCKS

AND MINERALS

How do we begin to identify rocks and minerals?

THERE ARE several ways to identify rocks and minerals. First

you will have to make some tests. These tests are easy to do and will help you to know more about rocks and minerals.

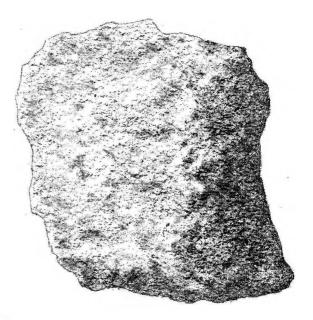
Each test you make will tell you more about your new rock, until at last you will be able to tell the rock's name.

You must not expect to be able to name every new rock or mineral at first. In the beginning you will be able to name only a few. It takes a long time to learn most of the names of the rocks and minerals.

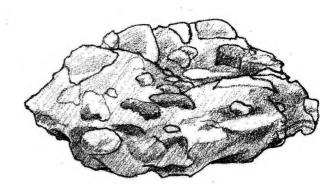
One of the first tests you will make is to ask yourself, "Where did this rock come from?" Is it an igneous rock? Or does it look more like a sedimentary rock? It might be even a metamorphic rock!

You would first like to know what general kind of rock it is. When you know where it came from, you can often tell what general kind it is.

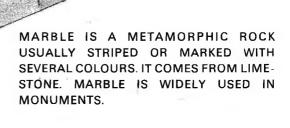
Once you know if it is an igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic rock, you can make some other tests.



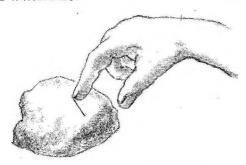
GRANITE IS AN IGNEOUS ROCK COLOURED RED, PINK, YELLOW OR BROWN. IT IS USED OFTEN IN CONSTRUCTION WORK.



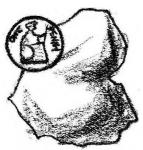
CONGLOMERATE IS A SEDIMENTARY ROCK MADE OF STONES AND PEBBLES, HELD TO-GETHER BY LIMESTONE OR SANDSTONE. LIMESTONE IS OFTEN WHITE AND SANDSTONE IS USUALLY BROWN.



IN THE FIELD, THERE ARE SOME SIMPLE WAYS TO TEST THE HARDNESS OF ROCKS AND MINERALS.



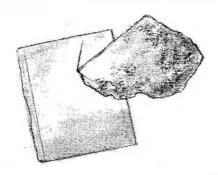
YOUR FINGERNAIL CAN SCRATCH TWO MINERALS—TALC AND GYPSUM.



A PENNY IS HARDER THAN YOUR FINGER-NAIL AND CAN SCRATCH CALCITE, AS WELL AS TALC AND GYPSUM.



THE BLADE OF A SMALL POCKET KNIFE IS HARDER THAN A PENNY. IT CAN SCRATCH FLUORITE AND APATITE, AS WELL AS THE MINERALS BELOW THEM ON THE SCALE.



HARDER MINERALS CAN SCRATCH THE SOFTER ONES, AND EACH MINERAL CAN SCRATCH ANOTHER OF ITS KIND.

How can you tell how hard a rock or mineral is?

ONE of the most important tests you can make on a speci-

men is to find out how hard it is. Hardness tells you how easy it is to scratch one mineral with another. Some minerals are very soft. Others are very hard.

If you know how hard or soft a specimen is, it will help you to tell it apart from other minerals.

Geologists, for a long time, have used ten minerals to test for hardness. These ten minerals are called the *Scale of Hardness* minerals.

Each mineral on the scale has a number as well as a name. You have already read about the names of some, and others will be new to you.

There are also some common things that will help you to test for hardness. One of these testers you have with you all of the time—your fingernail—which will scratch at least two minerals. A penny can also be used to scratch certain minerals, and a small pocket knife is another common tester. Its blade will scratch still other minerals. Each mineral can also scratch itself. You will read about these and others in the discussion about the "Scale of Hardness" minerals, beginning on the next page.

These minerals have been arranged in order. The softest mineral is number one and the hardest is number ten. Those minerals in between will vary, each higher-numbered mineral being harder than the one before.

THE SCALE OF HARDNESS MINERALS

What are the hardness minerals?

UMBER 1.
TALC: Talc
is a metamorphic

mineral. It is the softest of the minerals in the scale. You can scratch talc with your fingernail.

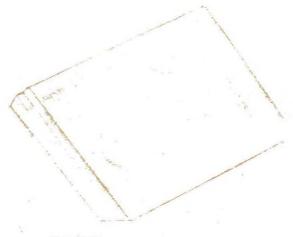
Talcum powder is made from groundup talc. Of course, the nice smell is put in after the talc is ground up.



TALC



GYPSUM



CALCITE

Number 2. GYPSUM: Gypsum is a sedimentary mineral. It is harder than tale, but you can still scratch it with your fingernail.

Gypsum may be colourless or white. It is found in huge beds in the ground where it is dug out. Gypsum is an important mineral. Plaster of Paris is made from it. Plaster wallboard is also made from gypsum. Did you know that the blackboard chalk you use in school was made from gypsum?

Number 3. CALCITE: Calcite is third in the hardness scale. It scratches talc and gypsum. You can scratch calcite with a penny.

Calcite is a colourless or white mineral. You will find it in many places and with all groups of rocks.

A special form of calcite is Iceland Spar. When you look through a clear crystal of Iceland Spar, everything suddenly looks double!



FLUORITE

Number 4. FLUORITE: This mineral is one of the most colourful of the hardness minerals. Crystals of fluorite may be white, grey, black and many other colours. They may also be colourless.

Fluorite is four on the hardness scale, but you can scratch it with a small pocket knife.



APATITE

Number 5. APATITE: Apatite is another mineral that forms beautiful crystals of many different colours. Some of these colours are white, brown, green, violet, blue and yellow. Yellow is the most common colour.

You can scratch apatite with a knife, too. Apatite in turn will scratch any of the hardness minerals below it. Apatite, like each of the other minerals, is able to scratch itself.



Number 6. FELDSPAR: Feldspar is about the most common mineral on the earth. When this mineral breaks up and rots, it turns into clay. Clay is found almost everywhere.

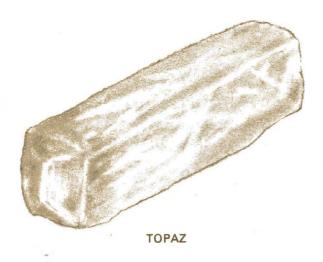
Your knife will not scratch feldspar, but the feldspar will scratch your knife!



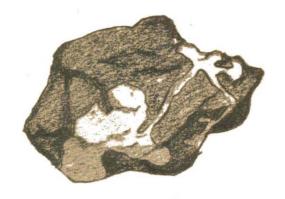
QUARTZ

Number 7. QUARTZ: Quartz is a common mineral you have already read about. It comes in many colours. A beautiful kind of quartz is named Tiger's Eye and is used in jewellery.

Quartz sand is melted and turned into clear glass. Radios and gramophones very often have special quartz crystals in them. Quartz is very useful. It is the hardest mineral you are apt to find easily.



Number 8. TOPAZ: Topaz is a very hard stone. It will scratch quartz or any of the other minerals below quartz. Topaz is prized as a gem stone because it is very beautiful. This stone is commonly yellow.



CORUNDUM (ruby)

Number 9. CORUNDUM: Corundum is next to the hardest mineral. Some crystals of this mineral are also gem stones. Ruby is a clear red corundum crystal. Such a crystal is quite valuable.

Ordinary corundum is crushed into small bits and made into sandpaper.

Number 10. DIAMOND: This is the hardest mineral known on earth. Nothing is harder than diamond. It is many times as hard as corundum. Clear crystals are made into jewels. Dark-coloured diamonds are used to polish and cut other hard stones, as well as other diamonds, too. Diamonds are valuable because they are very hard, beautiful and rare.

These are the hardness minerals. They are all used for many things. Testing the hardness of other minerals is just one of the things for which they are used.

As you become more interested in rocks and minerals, you will want to have a set of hardness testing minerals. A set is not expensive, for most sets do not contain a diamond. Since a diamond could only test another diamond, there is little need for one in the set.

Even before you have such a set, many tests can be made with your fingernail, a penny, a pocket knife and a piece of quartz.



DIAMOND

SIMPLE TESTS

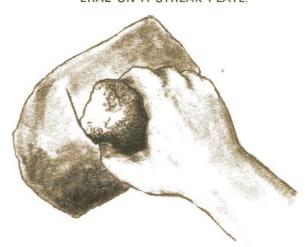
How can you tell what kind of rock it is?

OU CAN test for the name of a rock or min-

eral with a streak plate. A streak plate is made of unglazed tile.

Many specimens leave a coloured streak when they are rubbed on the streak plate. The colour of the streak helps to name the rock. You can make red, blue, black and many other coloured streaks. Some samples will not even make a streak!

RUB THE ROCK OR THE MIN-ERAL ON A STREAK PLATE.



THE STREAKS MADE BY THE HARDNESS MINERALS VARY FROM WHITE TO GREY, WHILE SOME OF THE MINERALS MAKE NO STREAKS OR ARE COLOURLESS. GENERALLY, NON-METALLIC MINERALS MAKE COLOURLESS TO LIGHT GREY STREAKS, AND METALLIC MINERALS MAKE DARK GREY TO BLACK STREAKS.



A SIMPLE WAY TO TEST ROCKS AND MINERALS FOR WEIGHT IS TO HOLD A DIFFERENT SPECIMEN IN EACH HAND. EVEN THOUGH BOTH ROCKS ARE OF THE SAME SIZE, ONE WILL WEIGH MORE THAN THE OTHER.

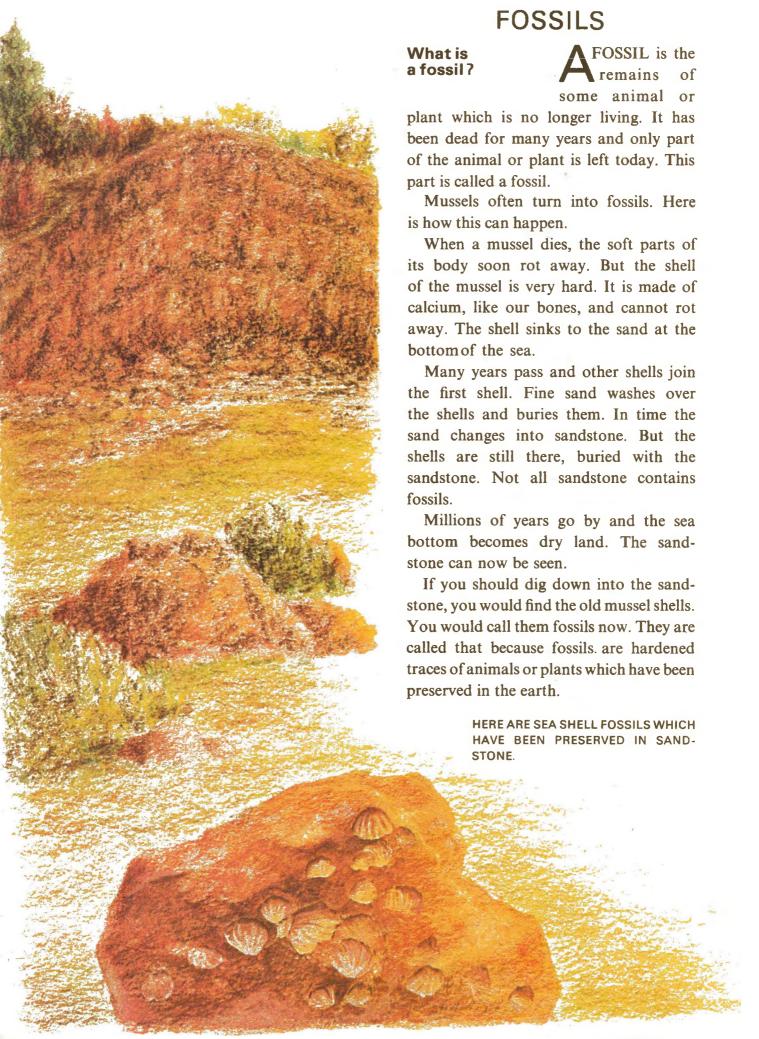
How can you test a rock or mineral for weight?

YOU CAN-NOT look at a rock or mineral and tell how heavy

it is. Yet, some minerals or rocks are much heavier than others. When you pick up a sample rock, you can tell if it seems heavy or light.

When you try this with a different rock in each hand, you can tell which is the heavier. Both samples must be about the same size, of course. You will be surprised to see how easily you can tell the difference in weight between two rocks. Whether the rock is heavy or light may help to tell its name.

More advanced books will show you other ways of finding the weight of a rock or mineral.



THE WORD FOSSIL COMES FROM A LATIN WORD MEANING "DUG UP." THE DISCOVERY OF FOSSIL REMAINS OF ANIMALS ON LAND AND IN THE SEA HAS GIVEN SCIENTISTS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORLD AS IT WAS MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO.

Why do we study fossils?

S OME day you may find a fossil. You will

want to know its name. You may ask yourself, "Where did this come from? Is it an animal or is it a rock? How did it get here? Is it valuable?" These and many other questions may occur to you. You will want to know the answers.

We study things we find interesting. Fossils are interesting and we study and read about them. When we read about rocks and minerals, we cannot

overlook fossils, because they are found in so many rocks.

When a fossil is found, it often tells something about the animal it came from. It may tell us how big the animal was, or if the animal lived in the sea. Fossils help us to learn about animals and plants that lived long ago.

Many large fossil bones have been found. The animals these bones came from were very large. Some stood higher than a house! It is fun to imagine what they might have looked like!

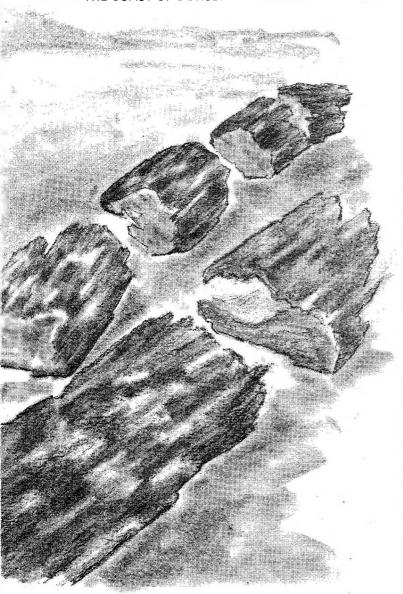
Where are fossils found?

NE of the best places to look for fossils is in sedi-

mentary rocks. Soft shale and sandstone often have fossils in them. These are both sedimentary rocks.

Limestone is a sedimentary rock made up of millions of tiny shells of sea animals. Sometimes the shells of the animals can be seen in the limestone. You could think of this kind of limestone as "fossil stone."

EXAMPLES OF PETRIFIED WOOD MAY BE SEEN ON THE ISLAND OF PORTLAND OFF THE COAST OF DORSET.





THE SHELLS OF SEA ANIMALS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORMATION OF LIMESTONE. LIME-STONE IS, THEREFORE, A GOOD SOURCE OF FOSSILS. NOTE THE SHELLS IN THIS STONE.

Trees and plants that are near lakes and streams often fall into the water. Sometimes they sink to the bottom and are buried in the soft mud. The years pass by. More mud covers the old trees. Slowly the trees change into fossils.

This takes many years to occur. But finally the tree has been changed from wood into a mineral. It is no longer made of wood, but of stone. We call this kind of stone petrified wood.

There are places all over the British Isles where fossils can be found. Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire contains the oldest British fossils but fossils of almost equal age are present in the North West of Scotland and Longmynd in Shropshire.

RARE STONES

What makes a mineral a gem stone?

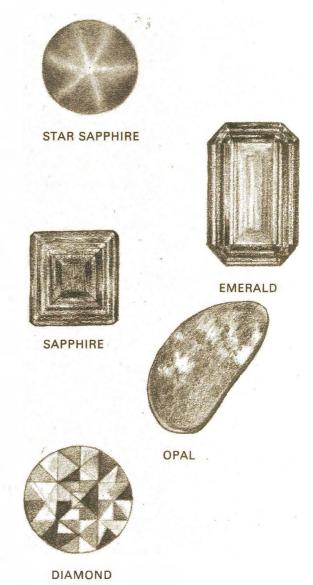
GEM stones are rare and more difficult to find than ordinary

rocks. They are harder to find because there are not so many of them. If a stone is hard to find, if it is beautiful, and if it can be cut and polished, it then becomes valuable. This kind of stone is named a gem stone.

For hundreds of years men have looked for valuable gem stones and minerals. Today other men are still hunting for new places to find gem stones.

A ruby is a beautiful red-coloured gem stone. When a ruby is polished, it sparkles and shines. The colour of the ruby helps to make it valuable.

Other gem stones are opals, pearls, emeralds and diamonds. Emeralds and diamonds are the most expensive and rarest gem stones. All gem stones are beautiful. Gem stones are used in jewellery. They are often cut into different shapes and set in rings.





PUMICE

What is pumice?

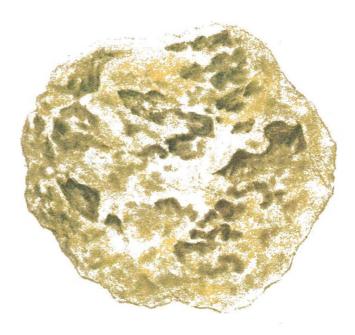
PUMICE is an igneous rock. It is made by volcanoes. Sometimes

the volcano throws out gobs of molten rock. Little holes grow in the rock before it cools. These holes are caused by steam or gas trapped in the molten rock. The holes in pumice look just like the holes in a loaf of bread!

Pumice is a stone that can float on water! It floats on water because it is so very light.

This stone is used to polish fine furniture and to make building materials.

PUMICE



COAL



COAL

What is coal?

OAL IS A sedimentary rock that will burn.

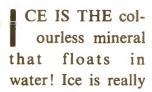
Coal burns just as wood does. It is used to build warm fires.

Coal was made millions of years ago. This rock is made from plants, and trees or ferns that lived long ago.

These trees and plants became buried just like fossils. In time they turned into coal. Coal is really the remains of many trees and plants. You can think of coal as "fossil wood."

Coal deposits are found in many parts of the British Isles, the largest deposits being present in the Northern Midlands and S. Wales,





a water crystal.

When water becomes very cold—reaching the freezing point—it turns into ice. We say that the water has frozen.

As water turns to ice it expands. For example, a gallon of water, when frozen, will make over a gallon of ice. Because of this, the ice is slightly lighter than an equal amount of water. When a block of ice is in the water, it then floats or stays at the top. Most of it is under the water, but some always sticks out.

Icebergs are huge blocks of ice. But no matter how much of the berg is above water, most of it is under the water.



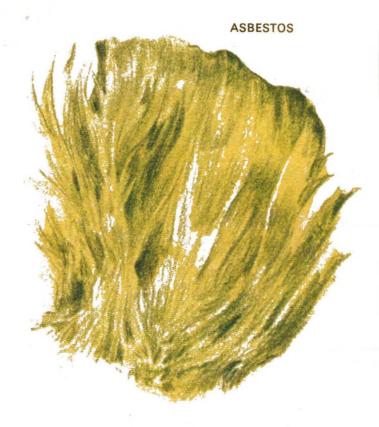
ASBESTOS

What is asbestos?

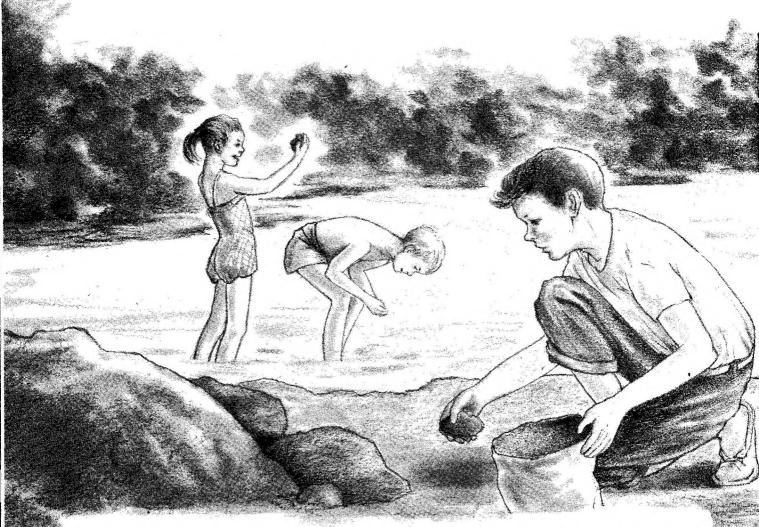
A SBESTOS is a mineral that does not burn! It

is useful around stoves and hot places, for it will keep things near the stove from burning.

Asbestos is a light-coloured mineral that comes from a kind of serpentine. It is made into asbestos cloth, asbestos paper and other helpful things. If you wore a pair of asbestos gloves, you could touch and handle hot things without getting burned!



START A ROCK AND MINERAL COLLECTION



How do you begin a rock and mineral collection? YOU will find it easy to start a rock and mineral collection. Begin

to collect by looking near your home.

If you have a garden, you may find a rock there. If there is an open field close by, it should contain some rocks you will want to have in your collection.

Are workmen building a new house near your home? They may have dug up some rocks or minerals you do not have. Sometimes the builders bring in new kinds of rocks. Look them over. There might be some you will want to collect, but ask permission first.

If you go into the country, watch for other new rocks or minerals. Look at new road cuts. This is often a good place to collect rocks. A dry creek or stream is another excellent place to look.

One of the finest places will be in a rock quarry. Here you are sure to find some worthwhile specimens. Of course, you must be careful to watch out for overhanging rocks or loose stones. It is well to collect with a partner — and more fun, too!

What will you need to collect rocks and minerals?

YOU WILL need something to put your specimens in when

you find them. If you are collecting near home, a heavy paper bag will do. But put in only a few small rocks at a time.

Most collectors use a collecting bag made of strong cloth. It has a strap that goes over your shoulder to help carry heavy loads. Surplus goods stores usually have a bag of this kind.

You will often need to break off rocks and break open new ones. A hammer or even another stone will sometimes help. With a hammer, or a prospector's pick, you can chip off a small piece of rock from a larger one.

Rock and mineral collectors like to take home only one or two of each kind of rock they find. It does not help to take too many of each. You would soon run out of room in which to keep them.

How can you keep your rocks and minerals?

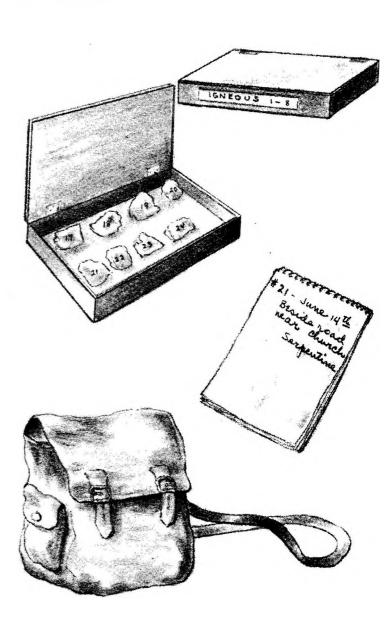
YOU WILL want to keep your best rocks and minerals. It

will help if you keep each kind together. The igneous rocks can go into one box. All of the sedimentary and the metamorphic rocks should be put into other boxes.

Shoe boxes or wooden cigar boxes make good containers. A label on the outside of the box will help you to locate specimens quickly.

Each rock should be labelled separately before you put it into your collection bag. A good system is to put a piece of adhesive tape with a number on it on the sample. In your collecting notebook write the name of the specimen and where you found it. Later on, at home, paint a small round white spot on your specimen with white paint. Indian ink numbers over the white paint will show up fine.

Start your numbers with one, two, three, and so on. This will help you to keep your collection organized. Do not carelessly try to collect everything and put off labelling your rocks until later.

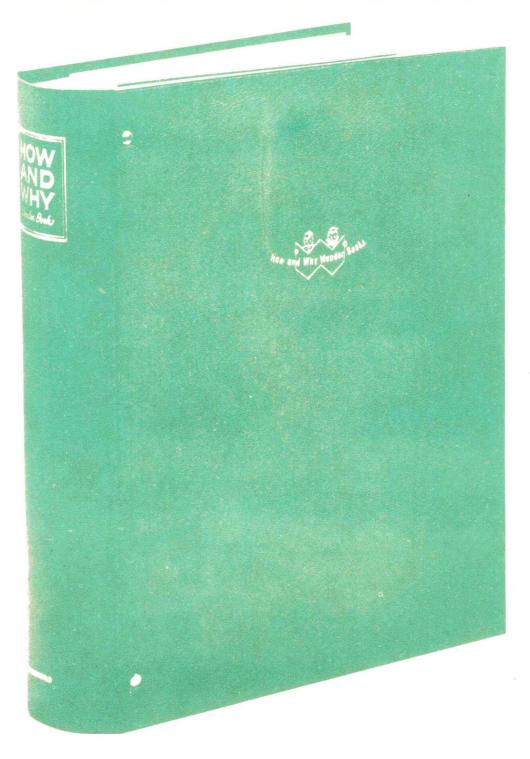


IDENTIFICATION CHART OF MAJOR SPECIMENS



NEW! A collector's binder to hold your HOWAND WHY Books

This new How and Why collector's binder holds twelve titles: a wonderful way to build your own reference library! It is available from the publishers of How and Why books for £2.00 Supplies are limited so send for yours now.



Transworld Publishers Limited, Cash Sales Dept., P.O. Box 11, Falmouth, Cornwall. Plus 50p Postage and Packing.

HOWANDWHY



These books answer the questions most often asked about science, nature and history. They are presented in a clear, readable style, and contain many colourful and instructive illustrations. Readers will want to explore each of these fascinating subjects and collect these volumes as an authentic, ready-reference, basic library.

TRANSWORLD PUBLISHERS LTD., CENTURY HOUSE, 61/63 UXBRIDGE ROAD, EALING, LONDON W.5 5SA